

HONORING THE WORCESTER  
YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 23, 2002*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Worcester, Massachusetts in celebrating the graduation of five young adults from the Worcester YouthBuild Program.

The Worcester YouthBuild Partnership began in 1998 under the guidance of Mass. Job Training, Inc. and through a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It provides unemployed, low-income young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who are not in school and have not received a high school diploma or GED with access to tools with which they can change their lives. YouthBuild Partnership provides instruction in education/GED preparation, life and leadership skills development, job readiness training, counseling as well as job development, placement assistance and construction skills.

I would like to acknowledge the graduates of the Worcester YouthBuild Program: Timothy Coll, Raini Notice, Arlene Perez, Carlos Rios and Shayne Smith. Furthermore, I want to recognize the contribution of Brandon Castro who participated in the YouthBuild Program but tragically died before he could complete the project. Among other things these young adults have participated in the construction of low-income family housing units at 41 Wall Street in Worcester, Massachusetts. As part of PROJECT REMEMBER, this house becomes the first of six housing rehabilitation/development projects to commemorate Worcester's six fallen firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these young adults for taking an active part in their community and I am confident that their contributions will have a lasting positive impact. I congratulate them on their accomplishments and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

IN HONOR OF MATTHEW AND  
AMANDA FAULKENBERRY

**HON. DAVID D. PHELPS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 23, 2002*

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two young people who have touched a world united for peace. Life Magazine's commemorative edition of the September 11th attacks features a touching image of Matthew and Amanda Faulkenberry embracing moments before Matthew was to depart for Afghanistan.

Since the original printing, this touching photo has appeared on ABC's Good Morning America, CNN, C-Span, and other various media outlets all over the world as an unforgettable symbol of American unity and strength in the face of adversity.

Son of Duane and Rhonda Faulkenberry of Herrin, Illinois, Matthew is a nuclear technician on the U.S.S. *Theodore Roosevelt* and a 1998 graduate of Herrin High School. Amanda graduated from Herrin High School in 1999 and is

the daughter of Curtis and Marilyn Smith. The couple currently resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I sincerely thank Matthew and Amanda Faulkenberry for inspiring a nation in mourning. Their contribution to the healing of our country will not go unforgotten.

CURRENT UNITED STATES POLICY  
TOWARDS HAITI

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 23, 2002*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern regarding current United States policy towards Haiti.

Haiti, a country slightly smaller than the state of Maryland, is about 475 miles off the coast of the United States. It is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The life expectancy of the average Haitian is only 53 years, and this number is certain to decline as the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country becomes even more severe. According to TUNAIDS, the United Nations agency responsible for addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic, more than 5% of the adult population is HIV-positive, and some sectors of the population have infection rates of over 50%. Haiti's infant mortality rate stands at 74 of every 1,000 births, and more than 1 in 4 children under the age of 5 are malnourished. Haiti ranks 152nd out of 174 on the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Index, below such countries as Bangladesh and Sudan.

In previous years, the United States pursued a constructive relationship with Haiti. Between FY 95 and FY 99, the United States provided \$884 million in critical development assistance funds to support agricultural development, democracy and governance, teacher training, health care, and many other programs. The United States also supported multilateral institutions that worked to improve the lives of ordinary Haitians. More recently, however, the United States has pursued a dangerously narrow policy towards Haiti and has used its veto power to prevent the disbursement of funds from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The board of directors of the IDB has already approved \$146 million in social sector loans for Haiti, but because of United States policy, these funds have been blocked from improving the lives of 8 million Haitians. Among the blocked loans are \$22 million to improve education, \$23 million for health care, and \$61 million for water and sanitation projects. Mr. Speaker, this policy must change.

In order for the living standards and life chances of ordinary Haitians to improve, international development assistance is critical. The United States must change its current policy towards Haiti so that it may receive multilateral funds for pressing development needs. If we do not act now, the deplorable conditions in Haiti will lead to a further deterioration in living conditions, social unrest, and a possible refugee crisis that will certainly affect our shores.

HONORING FAIRENE SEWELL

**HON. ED BRYANT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 23, 2002*

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Fairene B. Sewell, on the occasion of her retirement from the University of Tennessee Extension Service after fifty years of service.

Fairene Sewell is a constituent of mine and is a resident of Selmer, Tennessee. Born in Henderson County, Tennessee, Mrs. Sewell graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in Home Economics.

Mrs. Sewell has served the Volunteer State with pride as an Extension Leader at the University. She has received the National Association of Extension Home Economists Distinguished Service Award and a Certificate of Meritorious Service from Epsilon Sigma Phi. Mrs. Sewell is a member of the American Home Economics Association, the Tennessee Home Education Association, Tennessee Association of Extension Home Economists, American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and Tennessee Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, TEAFCS, and "Dean's Circle," College of Human Ecology at the University of Tennessee.

In addition to her professional memberships, Mrs. Sewell is active in the community. She has received: the Jaycees and Rotary Outstanding Citizen Award, a Certificate of Recognition for Continuous and Dedicated Community Service by the Modern Woodmen of America, and a Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation for teaching Health and Wellness Class at McNairy Central High School. Mrs. Sewell is a member of the Pilot Club, Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, First Baptist Church, and is the Secretary of PEC Credentials and Election Committee for District 8.

Fairene Sewell is a real asset to McNairy County, and to the State of Tennessee. Her colleagues speak highly of her, and her record shows a commitment to the community and to her students. She will be sorely missed by all those who know her.

PROCLAMATION FOR PETER  
REILLY

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 23, 2002*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young students, Peter Reilly. This young man has received the Eagle Scout honor from his peers in recognition of his achievements.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

The Eagle Scout award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our Nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an extraordinary